

amount of that data item is derived and a shift process by the same amount is effected on the other data items, whereby the relative positional relation can be maintained among the data items.

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated November 7, 2000. Claims 1-31 are presented for examination. Claims 1, 2, 10, 11, 13-15, 26, 27, and 29-31 have been amended to define more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention. Claims 1, 10, 14, 26, 30, and 31 are in independent form. Favorable consideration is requested.

Applicants note the Examiner's remarks regarding the abstract. Accordingly, the abstract has been amended to even more clearly describe the disclosure.

Applicants note the Examiner's remarks regarding the title. It is submitted that the application is not limited to processing a document at the time of replying or forwarding. Accordingly, the title has been amended to even more clearly describe the invention to which the claims are directed.

The specification has been objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.71. However, it is submitted that the invention is directed to the display of various objects in a document that may be overlaid, such as an ink image and a text image. This concept is described in detail on page 5, line 7 to page

43, line 11 as it relates to various aspects and elements of the present invention, such as the physical implementation (starting on page 5, line 9), functional description (starting on page 9, line 9), preparation of a representative document (starting on page 14, line 8), record pen mode (starting on page 20, line 8), structure of representative data (starting at page 25, line 17), process for reproducing the representative document (starting at page 28, line 23), drawing of objects (starting at page 37, line 8), moving of objects (starting at page 38, line 2), and so forth.

A specific embodiment of the present invention directed to electronic mail is disclosed on page 43, line 12 to page 46, line 17 of the specification. The electronic mail embodiment uses the move routine (which is described in greater detail starting at page 38, line 2) in the processing of a document summarized in Figure 27(S258). However, this portion of the disclosure is not intended to, as the Examiner appears to believe, limit the application of the present invention to electronic mail.

Rather, this embodiment is merely intended to provide an example that is readily understandable to readers of various potentially non-technical backgrounds. Thus, since the disclosure on pages 5-43 of the specification is necessary to a complete understanding of the invention, it is submitted that the Examiner's objection to the specification has been obviated.

Claims 1, 2, and 4-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Mosher, "MS Exchange User's Handbook", March 1, 1997 (*Mosher*). Claims 3 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Mosher*.

It is believed that Claims 1, 10, 14, 26, 30, and 31 are patentable over the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in independent Claim 1 is directed to an information processing method, which includes the step of storing a received mail document including text data and ink data. An ink image is reproduced from the ink data and overlaid on a text image reproduced from the text data when the mail document is reproduced. The method also includes deriving a shift amount of an output position of the ink image according to a character string inserted in the text image when a new document quoting the received mail document is prepared and according to a format of the character string. The method further includes the step of outputting the text image with the inserted character string. The ink image is shifted according to the derived shift amount.

Claims 14 and 30 are apparatus and storage medium claims corresponding to the method recited in Claim 1.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in independent Claim 10 is directed to an information processing method, which includes the step of storing document

information comprising locus information and text information, wherein a locus image is reproduced from the locus information and overlaid on a text image that is reproduced from the text information when the document is reproduced. The method also includes editing the text information and deriving a shift amount of an output position of the text information due to the editing of the text information. The method further includes outputting the locus image shifted according to the derived shift amount.

Claims 26 and 31 are apparatus and storage medium claims corresponding to the method recited in Claim 10.

Thus, when a plurality of data items or objects are displayed in a mixed state, and at least one of the objects is edited, a deviation amount or shift amount can be derived, inserted with the objects, and used to advantageously maintain the relative positional relation among the data items thereafter.

As understood by Applicants, *Mosher* relates to an application program that allows the user to save, view, open, reply to, forward, and quote electronic mail messages. Figure 12.9 shows a reply to a message in which the program provides addresses and quotes the incoming message. Similarly, Figure 12.10 shows a reply to multiple messages, which the program treats as file attachments.

However, nothing in *Mosher* would teach or suggest an information processing method including the steps of storing a received mail document including text data and ink

data, in which an ink image is reproduced from the ink data and overlaid on a text image reproduced from the text data when the mail document is reproduced, as recited in Claim 1. Further, nothing in *Mosher* would teach or suggest deriving a shift amount of an output position of the ink image according to a character string inserted in the text image when a new document quoting the received mail document is prepared and according to a format of the character string, as also recited in Claim 1. Finally, nothing in *Mosher* would teach or suggest outputting the text image with the inserted character string, wherein the ink image is shifted according to the derived shift amount, as recited in Claim 1.

The description in *Mosher* is restricted to messages that are either forwarded (Figure 12.10) or replied to (Figure 12.9). Therefore, nothing in *Mosher* would teach or suggest an information processing method, which includes the step of storing document information comprising locus information and text information, wherein a locus image is reproduced from the locus information and overlaid on a text image that is reproduced from the text information when the document is reproduced. Further, nothing in *Mosher* would teach or suggest editing the text information and deriving a shift amount of an output position of the text information due to the editing of the text information. Finally, nothing in *Mosher* would teach or suggest outputting the locus image shifted according to the derived shift amount, as recited in Claim 10.

Applicants submit that the remarks set forth above regarding Claim 1 are equally applicable to Claims 14 and 30, and that the remarks set forth above regarding Claim 10 are equally applicable to Claims 26 and 31. Therefore, nothing has been found out in *Mosher* that would teach or suggest the features recited in Claims 1, 10, 14, 26, 30, and 31 and these claim are accordingly deemed to be clearly allowable over *Mosher*.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from independent Claims 1, 10, 14, 26, 30, and 31 and are, therefore, believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration or reconsideration, as the case may be, of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicants' opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a reference against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO THE TITLE

INFORMATION PROCESSING METHOD [AND], APPARATUS, AND  
STORAGE MEDIUM [THEREOF] FOR SHIFTING OBJECTS IN A DOCUMENT



**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Amended) An information processing method comprising the steps of:

storing a received mail document including text data and ink data, an ink image being reproduced from the ink data and overlaid on a text image reproduced from the text data when the mail document is reproduced;

deriving a shift amount of an output position of [said received mail document] the ink image [,] according to a character string [to be] inserted to the text image when a new document quoting the received mail document is prepared and according to a [document] format [for locating said] of the character string; and

outputting [said received mail document] the text image with the inserted character string [while shifting said received mail document], the ink image being shifted according to [said] the derived shift amount [derived].

2. (Amended) The information processing method according to Claim 1, wherein [said received mail document] the ink data comprises locus information to define the output position by coordinate values.

10. (Amended) An information processing method comprising the steps of:

storing document information comprising locus information and text information [both of which can be outputted], a locus image being reproduced from the locus information and overlaid on a text image being reproduced from the text information when the document is reproduced;

editing said text information [stored];

deriving a [deviation] shift amount of [a] an output position of [said] the text information [stored], due to the editing of [said] the text information; and

[performing a shift edit to shift an output position of said locus information according to said deviation amount derived]

outputting the locus image shifted according to the derived shift amount.

11. (Amended) The information processing method according to Claim 10, wherein [said deviation] the derived shift amount [derived] is a difference between a position of [said] the text information upon output thereof without the editing and a position of [said] the text information upon output thereof after the editing.

13. (Amended) The information processing method according to Claim 10, wherein [said deviation] the shift amount is coordinate data.

14. (Amended) An information processing apparatus comprising:

received mail storing means for storing a received mail document including text data and ink data, an ink image being reproduced from the ink data and overlaid on a text image reproduced from the text data when the mail document is reproduced;

shift amount deriving means for deriving a shift amount of an output position of [said received mail document] the ink image according to a character string [to be] inserted to the text image when a new document quoting the received mail document is prepared and according to a [document] format [for locating said] of the character string; and

output means for outputting [said received mail document] the text image with the inserted character string [while shifting said received mail document], the ink image being shifted according to [said] the derived shift amount [derived].

15. (Amended) The information processing apparatus according to Claim 14, wherein [said received mail document] the ink data comprises locus information to define the output position by coordinate values.

26. (Amended) An information processing apparatus comprising:

storing means for storing document information comprising locus information and text information [both of which can be outputted], a locus image being reproduced from the locus information and overlaid on a text image being reproduced from the text information when the document is reproduced;

text edit means for editing said text information [stored];

[deviation] shift amount deriving means for deriving a [deviation] shift amount of [a] an output position of [said] the text information [stored], due to the editing of [said] the text information; and

[shift edit means for performing a shift edit to shift an output position of said locus information according to said deviation amount derived]

outputting means for outputting the locus image shifted according to the derived shift amount.

27. (Amended) The information processing apparatus according to Claim 26, wherein [said deviation] the derived shift amount [derived] is a difference between a position of [said] the text information upon output thereof without the editing and a position of [said] the text information upon output thereof after the editing.

29. (Amended) The information processing apparatus according to Claim 26, wherein [said deviation] the shift amount is coordinate data.

30. (Amended) A storage medium that can be read by a computer, said storage medium storing:

a control program for storing a received mail document including text data and ink data, an ink image being reproduced from the ink data and overlaid on a text image reproduced from the text data when the mail document is reproduced;

a control program for deriving a deviation amount of an output position of [said received mail document] the ink image according to a character string to be inserted to the text image when a new document quoting the received mail document is prepared and according to a [document] format [for locating said] of the character string; and

a control program for outputting [said received mail document] the text image with the inserted character string [while shifting said received mail document], the ink image being shifted according to said derived shift amount [derived].

31. (Amended) A storage medium that can be read by a computer, said storage medium storing:

a control program for storing document information comprising locus information and text information [both of which can be outputted], a locus image being reproduced from the locus information and overlaid on a text image being reproduced from the text information when the document is reproduced;

a control program for editing said text information [stored];

a control program for deriving a [deviation] shift amount of [a] an output position of [said] the text information [stored], due to the editing of [said] the text information; and

[a control program for performing a shift edit to shift an output position of said locus information according to said deviation amount derived]

a control program for outputting the locus image shifted according to the derived shift amount.

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO THE ABSTRACT

The Abstract Of The Disclosure starting at page 55, line 2 and ending at page 55, line 13 has been amended as follows.

[An object of the present invention is that in] In a [state] document in which a plurality of data items of different kinds are mixed, when one data item is edited, the relative positional relation to [the] other data items is prevented from being destroyed, whereby information is prevented from becoming meaningless or from being changed. For [achieving the object] example, when an edit is carried out on one data item, a deviation amount of that data item is derived and a shift process by the same amount is effected on the other data items, whereby the relative positional relation can be maintained among the data items.